

Opinion Page

Editorials

3,500-Pupil Districts Desirable—in Some Cases

THE IOWA director of the Great Plains School District Organization Project has recommended to the State Board of Public Instruction that all school districts have at least 3,500 pupils.

This would require the reorganization of all but 22 of the state's 455 local school districts.

FEW EDUCATORS will question that a school district of such size represents a desirable goal from the academic standpoint. Only the larger school districts can offer the variety of subjects needed today, particularly in high school. And the larger districts can most efficiently utilize the services of teachers by assigning each a sufficient number of pupils in each class.

But, while there undoubtedly needs to be additional school district reorganization in Iowa, we do not believe such reorganization should be forced or that the 3,500 goal is necessarily desirable in all cases.

For example, the La Porte City Community School District in Black Hawk County had 1,022 pupils in the 1966-67 school year. While there may be possibilities of merger with other nearby school districts, we believe the people of the La Porte City area will feel they have a community of interest which should be re-

tained in their own school district.

The same might be said of the Dunkerton Community District, with 702 pupils, the Hudson Community District, with 657 pupils, and the Allison-Bristow Community District, with 632 pupils, as examples. Reorganization efforts should be centered on mergers with districts of like interests.

Moreover, in more sparsely settled areas of Iowa, attainment of the 3,500-pupil goal would require long bus rides which would be a waste of the pupil's time and undesirable for other reasons. Furthermore, a larger school district with more than one high school would defeat the purpose of the larger district.

WHILE THERE are advantages in larger school districts, there are also disadvantages. The closer relations between administrators and teachers, on the one hand, and between teachers and pupils, on the other, have positive educational merit in the medium-sized school districts.

If rural population continues to decline, school district reorganization will have to be promoted vigorously merely to maintain the existing school population levels. But the 3,500 goal, while desirable, should not be pushed at the cost of ignoring all other factors.

hope that other servicemen's wives will not be exposed to the same tactics. If additional calls are made, the victims should contact the police and their local telephone company.

But Sergeant Diestler also told his wife in a letter that servicemen have been warned that in some sections of the country wives or parents are receiving fake letters or telegrams reporting the death in combat of a husband or son. He says that all such telegrams or letters should be ignored, since notice of the death of a serviceman is always carried in person to the next of kin by a member of the Armed Forces.

Strictly Personal

Is Everybody Wrong About Everybody?

By SYDNEY J. HARRIS

THE GERMANS are too square. The French are too greedy. The Italians are too effusive. The Scandinavians are too morose.

British Too Reserved

The Negroes are too shiftless.

The Jews are too pushy.

The British are too reserved.

—Isn't it great that the Americans aren't too anything? The Spanish are too violent. The Greeks are too quarrelsome.

Arabs Too Fanatical

The Japanese are too devious.

The Arabs are too fanatical. The Mexicans are too lazy. The Hindus are too superstitious. The Dutch are too phlegmatic.

—Isn't it great that the Americans aren't too anything? Even though the Germans find us too anarchic.

And the French find us too naive.

And the Italians find us too repressed.

Find Us Flamboyant

And the British find us too flamboyant.

And the Japanese find us too rude.

And the Mexicans find us too arrogant.

And the Swiss find us too dirty.

And the Spanish find us too materialistic.

Find Us Violent

And the Scandinavians find us too violent.

And the Hindus find us too hypocritical.

And the Hungarians find us too joyless.

And the Finns find us too boisterous.

And everybody finds everybody else to be too much of what it is not, and everybody is unaware of how he could use some of the traits he dislikes in others, and everybody thinks that his own bad traits are really virtues, and everybody is wrong about everybody.

Rowan Review

Says Kennedy Money Paves Way to Victory

Claims RFK Pays Voter Registrars

By CARL T. ROWAN

LOS ANGELES — The big salvos are yet to be fired, but the political pros here insist that the great Democratic primary battle is all over but the voting.

Sen. Robert F. Kennedy is viewed as a certainty to get California's 174 convention delegates.

Win 50 Per Cent

It is up to Sen. Eugene McCarthy to derail the Kennedy express that is roaring toward the August convention with a string of primary victories as evidence that "the people" want him. Even Kennedy-haters out here say McCarthy cannot defeat the New York Senator in California.

The pros figure Kennedy will win 50 per cent or more of the votes, McCarthy no more than 35 per cent, and the Lynch state no more than 15 per cent.

Once again, it seems, Kennedy money and organization are just too powerful for the Minnesota Senator.

30 Cents Per Negro

"With all his money, Kennedy is covering this state like a blanket. He just overwhelms McCarthy," said Los Angeles Mayor Sam Yorty, a maverick Democrat who dislikes both Kennedy and McCarthy and who supported Republican Richard Nixon in his 1960 presidential race against the late John F. Kennedy.

Yorty says Kennedy has spent at least \$23,000 in recent days

just to pay registrars 30 cents for every Negro they put on the voting rolls.

California Custom

(It is an old California custom for politicians to augment the income of registrars by paying them a modest fee for each constituent registered at that candidate's request. In 1962, when the "fee" was only 10 cents per voter, the state attorney general ruled that the practice was akin to bribing a public official, and thus improper. There is talk of the McCarthy faction making a campaign issue of Kennedy's men reviving this practice.)

Asked how he was sure Kennedy was paying to register Negroes, Yorty replied: "Why, one of my top aides, Willard Murray, Jr., has taken a leave of absence so he can supervise handing out the money."

McCarthy's Weakness

This eagerness to get more of California's large Negro population registered points up one of Kennedy's strengths and McCarthy's most glaring weakness. Kennedy is immensely popular among minority groups—Negroes and Mexican-Americans here. He is so confident that they will back him, and not McCarthy, that he will gladly finance getting them eligible to vote.

One of McCarthy's troubles is that he hasn't the money or organization with which to appeal for greater support among these or any other groups. His backers say he must put what little money he has into television, leaving almost nothing for billboards, mailings, and other campaign activities.

Staff Problems

Kennedy, meanwhile, has elaborate plans to flood the

state not only with television and radio but with billboards and two direct "personal mailings" to every voter in the state thought to be a Democrat.

Staff may be a bigger problem for McCarthy than money. His California chairman, Martin Stone, has complained to friends that he was coaxed into getting out front for the professorial Minnesotan by a half dozen or so Democrats who knew that Stone had been very active among businessmen opposing U. S. policy in Vietnam.

In Kennedy Camp

Stone now finds, however, that half the men who coaxed him into leading the McCarthy fight are now on the Kennedy team and the rest are waiting in the wings to beat the drums for Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey.

Stone and Ann Alanson, the Democratic National Committeewoman from San Francisco, are struggling in lonely splendor with two or three thousand students to keep McCarthy's hopes alive in the nation's most populous state and this most important primary election.

What Do You Think?

The Courier welcomes letters from readers on any subject of general interest for "The Public Speaks" column. Readers may have their names withheld in publication of letters upon request; but the correct name and address must be provided to the editor. Letters should not exceed 300 words; and shorter letters will receive publication preference. The right to shorten and edit letters is retained by the Courier. Readers are asked to limit their contributions to one letter a month.



Washington Merry-Go-Round

See Reagan as Nixon's Biggest Threat in Oregon

By DREW PEARSON and JACK ANDERSON

WASHINGTON — One of Richard Nixon's most significant tests will come in Oregon on May 28, and it won't be with Nelson Rockefeller.

It will be with Gov. Ronald Reagan of California, who not only has his name entered in Oregon but has been spending money as if he meant business. Reagan's Oregon campaign manager is Tom Hazen, former president of the Portland Chamber of Commerce, who has bought large blocks of radio and TV time and is pulling all the stops to elect his candidate.

Oregon is considered Rockefeller territory. In 1964 he ran in the primary against both Goldwater and Nixon, clob-

bering the former and leaving Nixon so far behind that it was pathetic. On primary election night you could have shot a cannon through Nixon headquarters without hitting a soul.

But this time Rocky is strangely silent. Not many people know it, but he has 60,000 fresh signatures on an unused petition putting him in the race. The signers are out on a limb and a little unhappy about it because Rocky did not go through with his plans. But each one of them is a potential write-in voter — if the governor of New York merely says the word.

But while Rockefeller does not seem serious, Reagan is. He is spending money all - out for a showdown with Nixon.

Computers Are Human, After All

THE ASSOCIATED Press reports that a Denver, Colo., housewife sent a note along with her check for 1968 license plates asking for a set with numbers which could be easily remembered.

She received license plate No. AD 8888.

Later she received a mimeographed form letter stating that numbers given each motorist were selected by computer and no preference could be given to individual choices of numbers.

This should refute once and for all the perpetual assertion that computers aren't human.

Note to Wives Of Servicemen

PRINTED elsewhere on this page is a letter from a sergeant in Vietnam who protests the abusive and frightening telephone calls which his wife, who lives in Northeast Iowa, has recently received.

The anonymous caller has called in the middle of the night to say such things as: "I understand your husband is in Vietnam. I hope he gets killed. He probably will be."

At other times the caller has merely phoned the wife's number at regular intervals throughout the night and then has remained silent when she answered the phone.

We join with the sergeant in protesting these fiendish tactics, although such a vicious or mentally unbalanced person is obviously not going to listen to any appeals for decency. These things have occurred in other parts of the country; but it is disturbing to have them appear in this area.

This wife has been forced to obtain an unlisted telephone number; and we



Harris

The Public Speaks

Charges Protesters Make Mockery of Beliefs

SOUTH VIETNAM — To the Editor: I am a soldier serving proudly in South Vietnam. Recently one of the fanatic war protesters, that we have so many of in our society, called my wife and said some pretty nasty things.

I have heard many stories of servicemen's families being harassed by similar tactics. I, and others of us serving in the military the world over, have no desire to take away these people's right to free speech or protest.

These are the very rights we are fighting to protect. In return for our service to our country and the respect we show to the enemies of our cause we ask only that they respect our right to privacy, and the freedom to express ourselves in support of a cause we feel equally as strong about as the war protesters feel toward their cause.

Every time one of these humanitarian war protesters harass the family of a military person they make a joke and mockery of the very principles they say they stand for. You see our families are innocent of any blame or responsibility for the things we do here in Vietnam, and are not even in a position to stop us.

The persecution of innocent

people can by no means be called the action of a humanitarian - oriented individual. If those of you from this element of our society feel you must protest, then protest, but direct your protest at those of us who are guilty of the action you protest.

Direct your protest toward the politicians and the members of the military, and leave our innocent families alone.

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(Editor's Note—See editorial in columns at left of this page.)

Carpenter Hit by Tornado's Effect

WATERLOO — To the Editor: Friday night my father-in-law called and asked if I could help Saturday. (He has a sister who lived in Charles City.) I said sure. What kind of a job? He didn't know. So I went out and started to collect tools, snow shovel, sand shovel, an ax, the eight-pound sledge, rake; a crowbar caught my eye and I threw it in. I am a carpenter and had hand



"Lovely day like this. How come you're not outside rioting?"

saws, wrecking bars, and hammers in my tool boxes.

We left Waterloo and drove on to Charles City. There I saw it. The result of a tornado. Block after block, as far as you could see.

I build houses and believe me I am proud of that house when we are done for it will stand for years. The hell it will I saw! We came to the lot and I said that because the house was just about gone. We walked on the floor, and he showed me this was the living room, here was the kitchen, a door swinging on the hinges, this was the bedroom. I looked out a window; it wasn't dirty like everything else for there wasn't a pane of glass left.

We could have some of the walls, but the dry - wall had to come off; the windows and door frames torn out, the siding had to go. So we went to work. Believe me I would rather put it on than tear it off. A neighbor came over and asked my opinion; I walked over and looked and told him what I would do. I think he was still in a state of shock for a little later a caterpillar was there and what was left is no more.

I think we used every tool I had except the rake. How could you rake up the roof of a house with a rake anyway? The caterpillars were doing that. This afternoon I plan on watching my White Sox play Oakland on TV. But believe me it is still there. The result of what a tornado did.

LEONARD N. PINT
224 Beverly Dr.

Thinks Annual Sessions Would Benefit Budgeting

CEDAR FALLS — To the Editor: Thank you for Sunday's editorial suggesting a number of legislative reforms. I agree wholeheartedly that some of these reforms are needed to improve the efficiency of the legislative process.

This editorial answers your earlier criticism of annual sessions—that the legislature would be in session so many days we would have full-time legislators.

Home Rule

The various techniques of streamlining legislative sessions are equally applicable to biennial sessions and annual sessions. Increased efficiency is not a substitute for annual sessions. Increased efficiency would make annual sessions shorter, as would passage of the home rule amendment. With home rule, the legislature would be relieved of the burden of the many bills of a strictly local nature. In the last General Assembly alone, 240 locally-sponsored bills were filed.

More Responsive

No matter how much time is saved by increased efficiency and home rule, we still need annual sessions to make state government more responsive to the needs of the people. Congress meets almost continually, and its programs often require state action, such as the appropriation of matching funds in order to get federal funds. Likewise the business of city and county government, school boards, and private enterprise goes on around the calendar year. Their problems require legislation that should be dealt with every year.

Annual Budgeting

The need for annual budgeting has been a primary reason for the shift to annual sessions in 23 other states. It is utterly impossible for a legislative body to predict economic conditions two years in advance. Dr. William G. Murray, professor of economics at Iowa State University, said in his statement to the Republican Platform Committee that annual sessions "would

enable the legislature to exert more control over the budget and spending. There could be faster adjustment to changing economic conditions, including changing conditions which result in big surpluses that tempt the executive and legislative branches of government to embark in excessive spending."

MRS. RAY BRANDT

3705 Hillside Dr.

Thanks All Who Aided Elma After Tornado

ELMA — To the Editor: Although our town did not sustain a fatality in last Wednesday's frightful tornado, our community, both urban and rural, did receive violent effects. We lost many homes, the Immaculate Conception Church, and several farm residences.

The actual financial loss may one day be precisely known, but the scar will be shared by generations to come.

As one citizen, I am sure to speak for all our people in this expression of gratitude. To all who took time to help, Elma will be eternally grateful.

MRS. PHIL MCCARVILLE

Bats Catch Fish On Amazon Isle

AT THE MOUTH of the Amazon River lies an island larger than Belgium where bats catch fish, fish eat cattle, and frogs glide through the tree tops.

Courseing streams slice Brazil's Marajo Island from the mainland. The water ways, which rise and fall with the tide, vein lowlands where water buffalo roam.

Hundreds of thousands of cattle graze broad expanses of palm-studded grasslands, the National Geographic Society says. Brazilian cowboys stand on horseback to keep track of their herds. Marajo's prairies are so flat that there is no other way to get a good view of the surrounding countryside.

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